

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2626
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2016
Women in Agriculture Sector
Kumar Dr. Virendra

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of women in the country are engaged in agricultural activities and the gender ratio in respect of the agricultural activities has increased during the last some years; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government thereon for upliftment of women in the agriculture sector?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

???? ??? ????? ??????? ????????? ??? ?????? ?????? (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Madam. As per Census 2011, Sixty five percent (65%) of the total female workers in India are engaged in agriculture. Of the total cultivators (118.7 million), 30.3% are female. Out of 144.3 million agricultural labourers 42.6 % are Women. In 2001, female agricultural labourers were 21% which increased to 23% in 2011.

The Department of Agriculture, Cooperation & Farmers Welfare implements various programmes of farmers including women in agriculture sector. As per directives for the Women Component Plan, the State Governments have been asked to ensure flow of funds to the tune of 30% for the benefit of women farmers.

The guidelines of Centrally Sponsored Scheme/Missions such as Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms under Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension(SMAE), National Food Security Mission, National Mission on Oil Seed and Oil Palm and National Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, Sub-Mission for Seed & Planting Material, Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization and Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) stipulate that States and other Implementing Agencies are required to earmark at least 30 % expenditure on Women Farmers.

The primary objective of "Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana (MKSP)" implemented by Ministry of Rural Development is to empower women in agriculture by making systematic investments to enhance their participation and productivity, as also create and sustain agriculture based livelihoods of rural women. Under the Pariyojana, projects are conceived in such a manner that the skill base of the women in agriculture is enhanced to enable them to pursue their livelihoods on a sustainable basis.

The measures taken by the Government for upliftment of women in the agriculture sector are placed at Annexure I.